

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 018372
ORIGIN EUR-03

INFO OCT-01 AS-01 ISO-00 /005 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY:MB
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:RLBARRY
EUR/EE:IMSILINS

-----271015Z 061130 /10
R 270221Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, AMED

SUBJECT: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON NEW YORKER
ARTICLE ON MICROWAVES

STATE 307557 DATED DEC. 20, 1976, ACTION MOSCOW AND
INFO LENINGRAD AND BONN IS REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

1. THERE FOLLOWS CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE DEVELOPED
FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS SPOKESMAN ON AN "IF ASKED"
BASIS FOR QUESTIONS RELATING TO PAUL BRODEUR'S NEW YORK
ARTICLE ON MICROWAVES (COPY POUCHED). YOU MAY USE
GUIDANCE IN BRIEFING EMBASSY STAFF BUT ALL PRESS QUESTIONS
SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR REPLY.

2. QUOTE: QUESTION: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE
PAUL BRODEUR DECEMBER 20 NEW YORKER PIECE ON MICROWAVES?

ANSWER: IN TERMS OF THE MATERIAL RELATED TO THE DEPART-
MENT OF STATE AND THE SITUATION AT EMBASSY MOSCOW, THERE
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IS NOTHING NEW IN THIS ARTICLE AS FAR AS WE CAN TELL.
THE ISSUES AND QUESTIONS RAISED ARE FAMILIAR TO THE EXPERT
CONSULTANTS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM
AND I THINK WE HAVE COVERED MOST OF THAT GROUND ALREADY.
AS FAR AS THE SITUATION IN MOSCOW IS CONCERNED WE HAVE

STATED REPEATEDLY THAT WE HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE THAT

THESE SIGNALS AT RECORDED LEVELS NOW OR AT ANY LEVELS IN THE PAST HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE HEALTH OF OUR EMPLOYEES. OUR OWN MEDICAL STUDIES AND THE WORK OF JOHNS HOPKINS CONTINUES AND TO DATE WE HAVE NO NEW INFORMATION THAT WOULD BE CAUSE FOR ALARM. I CANNOT SPEAK TO THE ARTICLE'S VARIOUS ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

QUESTION: ISN'T THE STATE DEPARTMENT KNUCKLING UNDER TO PRESSURES FROM MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS TO DOWNPLAY OR EVEN COVER THE SIGNIFICANCE OF MICROWAVE EFFECTS ON HEALTH?

ANSWER: NO.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE FORMER EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S WIFE WHO DIED OF CANCER?

ANSWER: I DO NOT INTEND TO DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL CASES; I CAN ONLY REITERATE THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF ANY CONNECTION WITH THE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS IN MOSCOW.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT AMBASSADOR STOESEL'S HEALTH? HAS IT IMPROVED SINCE HE LEFT MOSCOW?

ANSWER: AMBASSADOR STOESEL IS ON DUTY IN BONN AND I HAVE NOTHING TO ADD TO MY EARLIER COMMENTS.

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE LATEST ON THE TWO CHILDREN WHO WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVACUTED FOR FURTHER EVALUATION IN THE U.S.?

ANSWER: AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE NEITHER OF THOSE CASES WAS CONNECTED IN ANY WAY WITH THE MICROWAVE TRANSMISSIONS DIRECTED AT EMBASSY MOSCOW. ONE OF THE CHILDREN RETURNED TO MOSCOW SHORTLY AFTER EXAMINATION IN THE STATES AND THE OTHER REMAINED IN THE U.S. TO UNDERGO FURTHER EXAMINATIONS AND TREATMENT. THE SECOND CASE INVOLVED A CONGENITAL DEFECT OF THE BONE MARROW DISCOVERED DURING THE BLOOD TEST PROGRAM. BEYOND THAT IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT ON THE HEALTH HISTORIES OF SPECIFIC INDIVIDUALS.

QUESTION: WHAT RESULTS ARE COMING FROM THE JOHNS HOPKINS STUDY OF EMBASSY MOSCOW FAMILY MEDICAL HISTORIES?

ANSWER: THE RESEARCH CONTINUES, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO HAVE ANY DEFINITIVE RESULTS. WE EXPECT TO MAKE THE FINDINGS KNOWN WHEN THE RESEARCHERS PROVIDE THEIR

CONCLUSIONS TO US.

QUESTION: HAS THERE BEEN ANY RECENT CHANGE IN SIGNAL STRENGTH IN MICROWAVES BEAMED AT THE EMBASSY?

ANSWER: THE SIGNAL ACTIVITY AT EMBASSY MOSCOW IS MONITORED CONTINUALLY AND THE EMBASSY STAFF IS BEING KEPT UP TO DATE. THE SIGNAL STRENGTH IN ALL LIVING AND WORKING AREAS OF THE MISSION REMAINS A SMALL FRACTION OF A MICROWATT.

QUESTION: ARE WE PUSHING OUR DEMANDS THAT THE SIGNAL BE TURNED OFF:

ANSWER: OUR POSITION HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS AND WE CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THE TRANSMISSIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEMSELVES BE TERMINATED ALTOGETHER.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE STATEMENT THAT THE STRENGTH OF THE SIGNAL DIRECTED AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY REACHED 4 MILLIWATTS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE NEVER OBSERVED LEVELS ANYTHING NEAR THAT HIGH. AS WE HAVE ALREADY STATED, THE TYPICAL MAXIMUM LEVELS OBSERVED IN THE PERIOD WHEN THE SIGNAL INTENSITY WAS AT ITS HIGHEST LATE LAST YEAR AND EARLY THIS YEAR WERE IN THE VICINITY OF 20 MICROWATTS, ONE TWO HUNDREDTH OF THE FIGURE MENTIONED IN THE ARTICLE. SINCE THEN, AS YOU KNOW, THE SIGNAL STRENGTH HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED. END OF QUOTE.

3. FYI: AS OF TODAY NO QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY PRESS ON THIS ARTICLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, THE PRESS, MICROWAVE EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE018372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RLBARRY:MB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770029-0701
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770112/aaaaakbn.tel
Line Count: 157
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1bb538d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3482791
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON NEW YORKER ARTICLE ON MICROWAVES STATE 307557 DATED DEC. 20, 1976, ACTION MOSCOW AN
TAGS: TBIO, AMED, US, RO
To: BUCHAREST
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1bb538d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009